

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 and 15-17 are pending. Claim 14 has been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application based on the following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicants are pleased to note the Examiner indicated that claims 1-13 and 17 are allowed and claim 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, Applicants have rewritten claim 15 in independent form. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is in form for allowance.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over Klebanoff et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,533,952).

Claim 14 has been cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter recited therein. Therefore, the rejection of claim 14 under § 102(e) over Klebanoff et al. is rendered moot.

Claim 16 has been amended to depend directly from allowable claim 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 16 is allowable and respectfully request that the rejection of claim 16 under § 102(e) over Klebanoff et al. be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

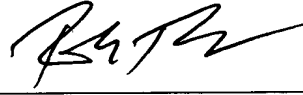
All objections and rejections having been addressed, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If any point remains in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 03-3975 Under Order No. 081468/282980. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

Pillsbury Winthrop LLP

By: 

Robert C. Perez

Reg. No.: 39,328

Tel. No.: (703) 905-2159

Fax No.: (703) 905-2500

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Customer Number [00909]